

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

© ASK, June 2021 • Telephone: 503 292 4352

Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: askoffice@askelm.com

Dear Associates and Friends,

June 2021

“[UFOs in Antiquity](#)” is this month’s article. The core of the article is by Dr. Richard Stothers who analyzed different UFO sightings in the ancient world, categorizes them, and discusses them. I thought presenting this article with some comments of my own would be timely.

The United States government through the U.S. Navy has said they will release a major “document dump” about UFOs. (News releases are linked in the article). In recent years gun camera footage by United States Navy jet fighters has been released. They show many radar and visual sightings of strange objects that fly, maneuver wildly and intelligently, and go underwater near major U.S. Navy assets. They are not threatening.

The strange objects are watched, recorded, intercepted, and chased by aircraft of the Navy and other branches of our government. The reactions of the objects seem to indicate intelligent control. These sightings give legitimacy to civilian sightings in the past.

Recently the “United States Space Force” was formed as the 5th branch of the U.S. military. Was it formed to protect the United States from space-based attacks by other countries (which is understandable), or to counter attacks from outside earth?

Why Release Any Documents? And Why Now?

I only have speculative answers to these questions. Someone in authority decided to announce that UFO information was to be released. I suspect that authoritative person or group had reasons that seem “good” to their purposes, whatever they are: **“Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”** (Isaiah 5:21). Perhaps the information will be released because:

- (1) The “powers that be” do not know what UFOs are, but they are not a threat, and the authorities are willing to make that admission. Therefore, we will release the information. Of course, that will not stop speculations.
- (2) The “powers that be” know what UFOs are and they want to get out in front of information that may leak through “unofficial sources.” Or ...
- (3) The “powers that be” are creating a story of what UFOs are. If so, they likely are doing so for a manipulative reason, and not designed to increase the freedoms of individuals.

There could be other reasons, of course. If the release is postponed or canceled, then that decision will need to be explained or perhaps ignored completely. See the links in this month’s article about the proposed “UFO information dump.”

Strange Arial “Sights” Have Been Observed Throughout History

Many strange and remarkable events and things are seen in the sky, as you will read in the article. Some sights and events are so strange and impressive that they appear to be supernatural though they are natural phenomena that occur rarely but are explainable. We can learn about God’s creation from such events. Unnatural events have supernatural causes. The difficulty is determining which causation is true. Let me give some examples, beginning with one supernatural message from God and two non-supernatural but impressive events. The first two I witnessed, the third was reported to me.

First, in the summer of 1971 I cleaned apartments while in college. At the end of the day, I finished a 10th floor apartment looking west over Lake Mendota in Madison, Wisconsin. A thunderstorm developed. After it passed there was a stunning and brightly colored full double rainbow from horizon to horizon. I was alone with no one to call out to come look at the sight. It lasted about 15 minutes. I was a Christian then and my thoughts were “Author, Author!” I knew what the rainbow meant. God created rainbows to speak to us by “a sign in the sky,” a sign representing God’s one-way covenant to Noah and mankind to never again bring a flood to destroy mankind ever (Genesis 9:13–17). Slowly the double rainbow dissolved. God speaks to you every time you see a rainbow. As the old radio show used to say — “Believe it, or not!”

Second, in the late 1980s or early 1990s, one night my wife and I were driving north on Highway 2, the Glendale Freeway, toward the 134 Ventura Freeway to Pasadena where we lived. Suddenly we saw an incredibly brilliant silver-white light explode on the ground to our left down in the valley (the freeway was elevated). I quickly turned to look at it as I drove. It was surprising how bright the light was; I could barely look at the light directly in the valley as it lit the sky above Glendale and the entire valley to the foothills to the north, even though the light was on the ground.

I thought without knowing, was that an electrical transformer blowing up? If so, I never knew they made that much of an explosion of light and we could hear no sound due to distance from the scene and road noise. Indeed, it was an electrical transformer that blew up and it caused a blackout, as I learned from television news later when we got home. It caused a blackout in parts of Los Angeles and Glendale. It was extremely impressive, and to me it seemed almost supernatural, but it was not.

Third, let me tell you another non-supernatural story of an impressive sighting. Several years ago, at a local meeting of [Oregon MUFON](#) (a UFO study group in Portland, Oregon), the subject of ball lightning came up. An older first-time attendee raised her hand and volunteered saying when she was a child, she saw ball lightning up close. She was at home and a storm was brewing and the living room window was open. Suddenly a brilliant white light with a sound of crackling came through the open part of the window, went through the house, and exited through the open kitchen window.

She said she was not afraid, and neither was another member of her family, but she was fascinated. She never thought it was supernatural, and the family learned later about the properties of ball lightning. They are generally harmless (there are exceptions) and small, at times only centimeters in diameter. Their house was not damaged. The woman did not make a big deal of the matter. I might have had other conclusions, but I accept her story. Bottom line: Not everything that is unusual is supernatural.

If you wish to delve more into these older case studies about UFOs, ancient to modern, see [Wonders in the Sky: Unexplained Aerial Objects from Antiquity to Modern Times](#), by Jacques Vallee and Chris Aubeck (Tarcher/Penguin, 2009). Clicking the link will take you to the 582-page book online. It compiles similar information to that presented by many more sightings over a much longer period than the article by Stothers, which focuses on ancient sources. It is reviewed by Dr. Michael Heiser in his online article, “[Appreciative, but Not Amazed by Wonders in the Sky](#).”

Thank You

Thank you for providing us the means to continue providing useful biblical information — meat, not pabulum. We strive to speak and write plainly as much as possible without technical jargon. After all, that is how the Bible is written, with the exceptions of biblical authors such as Isaiah, Daniel, and Paul who are very sophisticated authors. The bulk of the biblical writings are written for common people. We are grateful to God that He has brought you (through many round-about ways) to the information of ASK and the research of Dr. Ernest Martin, who provided the core of the material on the ASK website through his research and writings.

We hope you recognize how significant the information on the ASK website is, and not just to you but to others. Thank you for contributing to support us, so we can support your spiritual growth and that of others.

David W. Sielaff
david@askelm.com